

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-14. **(canceled)**

15. **(original)** An anti-FSH monoclonal antibody as expressed by hybridoma cell line ECACC 00034004.

16. **(original)** An anti-FSH monoclonal antibody as expressed by hybridoma cell line ECACC 00034005.

17. **(canceled)**

18. **(currently amended)** A method for testing a human female individual to determine the menopausal status of said individual, comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a gonadotropin-containing sample from said individual, wherein a member of the gonadotropin family present in said sample exists in a plurality of different forms, and wherein the form or forms in which said gonadotropin family member exists differ depending on the menopausal status of said individual;

(b) performing contemporaneous first and second assays on said sample obtained in step (a), wherein

said first assay makes use of a first antibody pair directed against ~~producing an indication of~~ a first form of said gonadotropin family member that is independent of the menopausal status of an individual to produce an indication of said first form,

and said second assay makes use of a second antibody pair directed against ~~producing an indication of~~ a second form of said gonadotropin family member that is dependent on menopausal status to produce an indication of said second form, wherein the indication produced in the second assay differs according to the menopausal status of said individual, and

wherein at least one member of each pair differs from at least one member of the other pair,
and

(c) comparing the results of the first and second assays to determine the menopausal status of said individual.

19. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 18, wherein the gonadotropin family member is follicle stimulating hormone (FSH).

20. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 19, wherein the first and second assays are sandwich-format assays.

21. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 20, wherein the first assay makes use of a first antibody pair directed against the combined alpha and beta chains of FSH, and the second assay makes use of a second antibody pair directed against the combined alpha and beta chains of FSH, and wherein both members of the first antibody pair are different from the members of the second antibody pair and wherein the first antibody pair has a different specificity for the combined alpha and beta chains of FSH from the second antibody pair.

22. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 21, wherein the first antibody pair detects total FSH.

23. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 21, wherein the first and second assays each provide a quantitative result, and the ratio of the two results is determined as an indication of menopausal status.

24. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of obtaining a second sample from the individual after an interval of at least one week and performing a repeat set of contemporaneous first and second assays on the second sample to determine if the menopausal status of the human female individual is changing.

25. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 24, wherein the human female individual is one undergoing a course of hormone replacement therapy.

26. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 18, wherein the first and second assays are sandwich-format assays.

27. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 26, wherein the first assay makes use of a first antibody pair directed against the-alpha and beta peptide chains of the gonadotropin, and the second assay makes use of a second antibody pair directed against the alpha and beta peptide chains of the gonadotropin, and wherein both members of the first antibody pair are different from the members of the second antibody pair.

28. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 27, wherein the first and second assays each provide a quantitative result, and the ratio of the two results is determined as an indication of menopausal status.

29. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of obtaining a second sample from the individual after an interval of at least one week and performing a repeat set of contemporaneous first and second assays on the second sample to determine if the menopausal status of the human female individual is changing.

30. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 29, wherein the human female individual is one undergoing a course of hormone replacement therapy.

31. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 18, wherein the first and second assays are configured such that when the human female individual is in a pre-menopausal state both assays give rise to an identical~~similar~~ indication, and when the human female individual is in a post-menopausal state the indication from the second assay is discernibly different from the indication of the first assay.

32. **(previously presented)** The method of claim 31, wherein the indications produced by the first and second assays are the formation of color.

33. **(currently amended)** An assay device for determination of the menopausal status of a human female individual by testing of a sample of body fluid from said individual, comprising:

(a) a first gonadotropin-responsive signal producing means that, relative to a reference standard, produces a signal indicative of a first form of a gonadotropin family member present in the sample that is independent of the menopausal status of an individual;

(b) a second gonadotropin-responsive signal producing means that, relative to a reference standard, produces a signal indicative of a second form of said gonadotropin family member present in the sample that is different depending on the menopausal status of an individual; and

(c) means for combining the signals produced by the first and second gonadotropin-responsive signal producing means to provide a determination of the menopausal status of said individual.

34. **(previously presented)** The assay device of claim 33, wherein the first and second gonadotropin-responsive signal producing means produce signals indicative of follicle stimulating hormone (FSH).

35. **(currently amended)** The assay device of claim 34, ~~whether~~ wherein the first ~~and second~~ gonadotropin-responsive signal producing means ~~each comprises a detection zone configured to capture a particulate direct label specific for the first gonadotropin family member and to produce a signal as a result of binding in said detection zone of a labeled specific binding reagent with said particulate direct label~~ and wherein the second gonadotropin-responsive signal producing means comprises a detection zone configured to capture a particulate direct label specific for the second gonadotropin family member and to produce a signal as a result of binding in said detection zone of a labeled specific binding reagent with said particulate direct label.

36. **(currently amended)** The assay device of claim 35, wherein said labeled specific binding ~~reagent~~ reagent is an antibody directed against the alpha or beta peptide chains of FSH.

37. **(currently amended)** The assay device of claim 33, wherein the first ~~and second~~ gonadotropin-responsive signal producing means ~~each comprises a detection zone configured to capture a particulate direct label specific for the first gonadotropin family member and to produce a signal as a result of binding in a said detection zone~~ zone of a labeled specific binding

reagent with said particulate direct label and wherein the second gonadotropin-responsive signal producing means comprises a detection zone configured to capture a particulate direct label specific for the second gonadotropin family member and to produce a signal as a result of binding in said detection zone of a labeled specific binding reagent with said particulate direct label.

38. **(currently amended)** A method, comprising:

(a) forming a mixture comprising~~providing~~ a sample comprising first and second forms of a gonadotropin from a human female, a relative abundance of the first and second forms of the gonadotropin being dependent upon the menopausal status of the female; and

(b) assaying the sample, in the presence of the second form of the gonadotropin, to determine a first value indicative of the first form of the gonadotropin using a first antibody pair specific for the first form of the gonadotropin; and

(c) assaying the sample, in the presence of the first form of the gonadotropin, to determine a second value indicative of the second form of the gonadotropin using a second antibody pair specific for the second form of the gonadotropin.

39. **(currently amended)** An article, comprising:

a device configured to at least:

receive a sample comprising first and second forms of at the same gonadotropin from a human female, a relative abundance of the first and second forms of the same gonadotropin being dependent upon the menopausal status of the female;

assay the sample, in the presence of the second form of the gonadotropin, to provide a first signal indicative of the first form of the gonadotropin; and

assay the sample, in the presence of the first form of the gonadotropin, to provide a second signal indicative of the second form of the gonadotropin.